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France May Use Cuban Issue in UN to Press US

France has continually opposed what it considers the United States' indiscriminate efforts to win the political support of the Afro-Asian states in the UN. Paris is motivated partly by fear of establishing precedents which will pave the way for increased UN activity in Africa to the detriment of French interests, particularly in Algeria. Principally, however, De Gaulle views the UN as a heterogeneous mixture numerically dominated by new states, fundamentally incapable of action but increasingly tending to assume the responsibility of the large powers for the maintenance of peace.

The US vote in the Security Council on 15 March in favor of the Liberian resolution calling for UN consideration of the Angolan question probably was the immediate occasion for the French suggestion to the Portuguese. Various French political commentators have recently berated the US for failure to "stand with its allies." The influential and usually pro-American Raymond Aron said in an article on 22 March in Le Figaro that the US "double standard" will backfire when "the Marxists train their guns on US 'imperialism' in Latin America." Paris can be expected to continue to urge the other colonial powers to utilize the Cuban resolution or any similar resolutions, particularly those critical of US policy in Latin America, as an opportunity to make this point forcefully.

Lisbon's sharply hostile reaction to the recent US vote suggests that it will give serious consideration to the French tactic. Portuguese officials believe the US position has encouraged Afro-Asian attacks on the colonial powers, and Lisbon has been seeking ways to induce the US to change its African policies. The vitriolic anti-American press campaign and demonstrations in Portugal have linked the US stand with that of the Soviet Union and have singled out Ambassador Stevenson as the chief villain. A leading editorial on 29 March in the government-controlled newspaper Diario de Noticias stressed that the US bases in the Azores had been granted with the understanding that Portuguese sovereignty would be respected in all of the Portuguese colonies, that Portugal had

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only joined the UN on the insistence of the US and Britain, and that the loyalty and solidarity Lisbon had given the NATO alliance had been forgotten.

The Cuban request for UN General Assembly consideration of "the clear threat to international peace and security" posed by "the various plans of aggression and acts of intervention" of the United States against the Cuban Government was originally submitted last October. Cuba has subsequently further detailed its charges against the US in several formal complaints circulated in the UN. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Indonesia and Guinea plan to submit a resolution in the General Assembly recommending that the US and Cuba make every effort to settle their differences by peaceful means... in bilateral discussions, [REDACTED]

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the Cuban Government is actively pushing such a resolution.

For some weeks, Cuba's public position has been that it is willing and anxious to engage in bilateral discussions with the US, provided such discussions are on a "basis of equality and with an open agenda," but that the present US attitude prevents such discussions. In its note of 8 March rejecting the Argentine offer of good offices toward easing US-Cuban "differences," Havana reiterated these views but added, "The conduct of the US Government and the statements of its officials" would make any effort toward bilateral discussions at this time "useless." [REDACTED]

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